

Notes from Group 6

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Neighborhood Questions:

Were you aware that projects discussed happened as a result of the neighborhood plan?

- 10 year resident – likes living here.
- Safety #1 concern
- Crimes happen in Beacon Hill
- More housing, but must be safe
- New buildings removed trees – better to save trees
- Pedestrian - hillside erosion causes more narrow & unsafe sidewalks on 14th Ave S & 13th Ave S
- More educational opportunities on clean green aesthetic
- Crime at S Massachusetts St & 14th Ave S. Grandson had backpack taken at bus stop south of Red Apple

Specific problems?

- Long-term resident (20 years). First planning experience
- Not much public notice of first planning effort – first time to learn of matrix from the original neighborhood planning process
- Attended some meetings
- Should be more planning efforts and outreach
- Documents in English only – need to be translated
- Need more outreach
- Concerned with safety and increasing density
- 11 year resident – was involved in previous plan. Also S. Lander St. planning and Charrette. S. Lander good example of neighbors working with City.
- Documents need to be more accessible to different communities, including elderly.

How did you find out about this meeting?

- Beacon Tower Council
- Translate documents into different languages

Where did you get information?

- Mail, trusted advocate, and word of mouth
- It would be good to announce May meeting in local Chinese newspaper
- Use local cultural newspapers, newspapers from the international district, international district organizations, and church outreach.
- Use elementary schools as resources to get out information - Beacon Hill International/Kimball Elementary and Mercer Middle School.

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- More Chinese people are leaving with new development. The group liked the park area in the international district near Bush Hotel. Need more culturally specific designs (culturally aware park design and features) to provide a place for Chinese people (to keep Chinese people on Beacon Hill).

What benefits would you like to see from increased density?

- UW is mapping pedestrian amenities around each light rail station – probably will be found on web site. Information will help community understand where they might need more or better pedestrian amenities. The information will probably not be translated, but should be graphically represented.

Are there properties important to development?

- Houses converted to business use are nice and keep with the community character
- Avoid big mass of high density with no breaks – avoid the canyon effect
- Safety concerns with higher density because of hiding places
- Probably can't avoid higher density but single family houses contribute to safety and livability
- Note specific issues such as drug houses – need to get these types of places out of the neighborhood

Any stores that you would not want to lose?

- Yes – “Historic” bldg., i.e., Salon N is on the first floor level/Beacon Building – would like to save supermarkets (ABC Market and Red Apple) and have more food places like the ID has – many people leave neighborhood to shop in the ID
- Like the mix of retail available in Beacon Hill - important to keep small businesses in neighborhood when new development enters community (i.e. lost South China). Want to understand how to avoid displacement of local/small businesses

What are neighborhood opportunities to influence new development?

- Buildings too close, units too small – need more family size development
- Should save trees

City Questions:

What kinds of public benefits should be included with new development?

- Develop park at Beacon Hill Elementary – more equipment for kids and adults to use outdoor facilities
- Swimming pool
- Walking track or trail for adults to use for exercise
- Take care of graffiti (makes uncomfortable and feels unsafe)
- Indoor basketball court has no nets on the hoops and bad paving conditions
- Need small pocket parks scattered throughout neighborhood
- Water features and benches to take breaks while walking /place to gather in the neighborhood

Notes from Group 6

- Small rest spots / kid play areas
- Encourage people to stay within business core area
- Enjoy coffee outside – opportunities for sidewalk cafes
- What guidelines are in place for ground-level development?
Beacon Hill has neighborhood design guidelines that developers follow to help with community support of projects
- If increased density, why is all up against Beacon?
Discussion on Design Guidelines / walkable neighborhood / promote TOD / try to avoid encroachment on single-family residential
- How will design review notices be outreached to various communities?
DPD posts notices and community members should be on the lookout (aware) of new projects. Example: Delite Bakery review process. Parking concerns with new development. Too many cars parking on the street – makes it difficult and dangerous to drive in one lane, waiting for people to drive through crowded street before they can pass through.

What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center?

- Library
- Jana Love Galaxy
- Jefferson CC
- Lioe's Automotive (hang out)
- El Centro de la Raza
- Neighborhood Center is not strongly defined right now, but could be focused around the light rail station. Jefferson Park also important. A strong connection, better streetscape design should connect the neighborhood center (station area) with the park and community center.
- Routes to center are important
- Green – good trees, better sidewalks
- Signal phase of S McClellan St / Beacon Ave S too long for east/west bound on McClellan

What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Keep mix of businesses
- Need more grocery / supermarket – more choices for grocery shopping around transit station
- Would like performance space with stage
- Would like indoor and outdoor performance space
- Need good street lighting and furnishings

Parking issues?

- Between Bayview within ¼ mile of station – cars able to park on both sides of the street, makes driving through neighborhood more dangerous as you have to wait for cars to pass before being able to move through street

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- Do we have to pay for RPZ permits?
- Should be RPZ in the neighborhood to protect on-street parking for resident's and businesses
- RPZ helps to prevent hide-n-ride commuters
- In discussion with SDOT re: resident payment for permit
- Many single family homes only have on-street parking will have to pay but will they have a space?
- Should have low-income permit – there is a \$10/two years low-income permit
- More parking for El Centro?
- Construction needs increases demand for parking currently
- One neighbor proposing way to get more parking in core – what if metered parking for business district?
- Need less surface parking lot: off-street parking lots deter from walkable community – it creates dead space and should be located behind buildings, not in front
- Does the neighborhood want to have people come/visit by light rail or drive?

Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Yes – majority of the group will use light rail to get to destinations

How will you get to station?

- Walk, bus
- If hard to park to use light rail, then transit is easy choice
- Should bikes be on the street?
Yes
- Who has right-of-way when bikes and cars share?
In a shared lane, bikes must act like cars – follow traffic rules
- Neighborhood wants more dedicated bike lanes
- If no parking on Beacon Ave S, could convert to dedicated bike lane instead of sharrows
- Could there be a public parking use in private development? Negotiated with height increases is a possibility – shared parking options
- Station Area Overlay, stated in the Seattle Municipal Code, prohibits principal use, long-term parking facilities

What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better?

- A Target – clothes shopping – leaves neighborhood to get goods (like clothing, hardware, etc.)
- I was born here.
- Pharmacy needs on Beacon Hill
- Mostly Chinese people live here close to downtown and I.D.
- Proximity to Port of Seattle and work
- Hope for not too high development – not more than 5 stories – wants to maintain community character without high rises

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- Need farmer's market (have informal market – cherries @ Jefferson park parking area) – could have farmer's market on S Lander Festival St
- We will have better access to shopping centers with light rail
- Hope new development attracts more people to spend money and make people safer – more eyes on the street and people walking in neighborhood
- Could Sears be moved to Beacon Hill because no shopping in Beacon Hill?
- Maybe not as big as Sears? – keep scale at the neighborhood level
- Goodwill Development (Target) hard to get to by transit
- Are there too many gas stations?
just enough
- Concern re prostitution and drug dealing
too much
- What is Metro/South Transit payment fare coordination?
Discussion: more to come from both Metro and ST regarding fares and transfers

Group 6 wrap up

12 – 14 (10 residents)

- Public Safety - big issue
- Resident's parking and single family residences maintained
- Parks and trees
- Safe, close outdoor places for exercise
- Strong connections (multi-mode) to our center/Jefferson Park and to the North
- Local retail without going off Beacon Hill
 - With zoning incentives
 - Lower rents – small spaces
- Retain small business diversity
 - Negotiate with developers – small shop space
- Maintain cultural diversity
 - Cultural considerations in park amenities – reflect community diversity